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MAR 12 2003

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Paper No. 11

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In re Application of: Melchione
Application No. 09/585,811
Filed: May 31, 2000
For: SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER
PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR PROCESS-
BASED SELECTION OF VIRUS
DETECTION ACTIONS

DECISION ON PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL

This is a decision on the petition, filed February 12, 2003 under 37 C.F.R. §102(d) and M.P.E.P. §708.02(XI): Inventions For Countering Terrorism, to make the above-identified application special.

M.P.E.P. §708.02 (XI), which sets out the prerequisites for a grantable petition for Inventions For Countering Terrorism under 37 C.F.R. § 102(d), states in relevant part:

International terrorism as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2331 includes “activities that - (A) involve violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any State; [and] (B) appear to be intended - (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping...” The types of technology for countering terrorism could include, but are not limited to, systems for detecting/identifying explosives, aircraft sensors/security systems, and vehicular barricades/disabling systems.

Applicants who desire that an application relating to inventions for countering terrorism be made special should file a petition with the petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(h) requesting the Patent and Trademark Office to make the application special. The petition for special status should be accompanied by a statement explaining how the invention contributes to countering terrorism.

Petitioner's submission fails to meet the criteria set out with respect to countering terrorism in M.P.E.P. §708.02(XI). The specification and claims as originally filed provide no indication of an intention to counter terrorism by contributing to the identification and detection of Virus. The declaration supporting the petition describes steps to identify and detect the file that contains Virus. However, the claimed invention fails to indicate countering terrorism. Moreover, “identifying” and “detecting” do not equate to “countering”. Further steps would be required to actually offset or nullify terrorism, yet no suggestion of “countering” is found in the disclosure. As a result, no advancement in the technology of countering terrorism has been persuasively shown.

Accordingly, the petition is **DENIED**. The application file is being forwarded to Central Files to await examination in its proper turn based on its effective filing date. Any request for reconsideration must be filed within two months of the mailing date of this decision.

It is suggested that applicant review M.P.E.P. §708.02 regarding other grounds available for filing a petition to make special. In particular, note M.P.E.P. §708.02(VIII): Accelerated Examination, which does not place limitations on the subject matter of the application.



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